

Runfurther AGM 29 November 2014 3pm The Rambler, Edale.

Present: Andy Robinson, Karen Nash, Nick Ham, Dick Scroop, Emma David, Nigel Aston, Kate Whitfield, Martin Terry, John Williams, Janet Hill, Steve Spence, Peter Stobbs, John Vernon, Chris Davies, Si Berry.
Later Karen McDonald.

(also Mark David, Vicky Marlow, Carol Morgan, Chris Buck, Dawn Terry)

1. Apologies: Ian Simington, Nicky Spinks, Alison Brind, Mark Hartell, Steve Richards, Ned Lammass, Steve Dixon, Sarah Booth, Andy Norman, Wendy Dodds, Kevin Houl, Les Hill, Mick Cottam, Graham Tagg.
2. Minutes of the inaugural meeting- accepted as a true record.
3. Chairman's Report: The 4 of us took the decision to save Runfurther and started by keeping the results spreadsheet and putting up flags unofficially. We were determined to keep it going but had quite low expectations for our first year. Things went better than initially expected and we owe many thanks to Mark Hartell for his advice and the chance to keep the Runfurther name. We managed to get sponsors, prizes and to have a series. The members, you the runners, are now the owners. We still need to grow the numbers back to the pre 2012. 126 signed up and 82 have done at least 2 races and we have 3 honorary members. 27 members did 4 races this year, 2013 was 26, 2012 was 54 and the max was 71. This year we started with no money to promote the series but next year we plan lots of publicity. Already we have had articles in FRA magazine and Trail Runner. We plan for banners, bigger posters, fliers etc and of course the website is now running. We have had 5 sponsors- Clif Bars, Ultimate Direction, Injinji, (last two via Si Berry) Ultramarathon Running Store and Raidlight. We have also had committee shirts from Fastrax, books from Tony Wimbush and help from Running Bear. These 5 are also sponsors for 2015 and will be increasing the financial contribution.
4. Treasurer's Report: Nick explained we are indebted to Kevin Houl for the preparation of the accounts to meet the legal requirements. The full document and a one sheet summary were provided. 31 Oct is our year end. Turnover was £900, admin costs £101, other income £275 and a 'profit' of £1074 as assets in the bank. We have had donations of £100 from Brett at Haworth Hobble, £300 from Si/Betaclimb and £150 from other sponsors plus the £174.55 cash collection at the meeting last January. Expenditure has been low- website, hoodies and a few incidentals. ACTION NH to write and ask for tax exemption and exemption from filling in a tax return.

5. Election of Officers:

Chairman- Andy Robinson- proposed by KN, seconded DS. Unopposed.

Treasurer- Nick Ham – proposed AR, seconded KN. Unopposed.

General Secretary- Karen Nash – proposed AR, seconded NH Unopposed.

Assistant Secretary – Dick Scroop- proposed AR, seconded KN. Unopposed.

AR mainly does results and web, Nick Treasurer, Karen minutes, social, Dick Company law. All share with flags etc.

Emma David was co-opted onto the committee early last year and has helped with prizes and facebook. Sadly as she is setting up a new business she feels she must step down.

This means we have vacancies and especially have a need for graphic design, press officer and general help with flags at races. There were no volunteers or proposals from the floor but it was agreed we would make a request via the website, email and facebook. ACTION.

6. The 2015 series. Fliers were distributed and our logic explained- no sacred races but old favourites in a 2-3 year cycle allowing us to keep the series fresh, ideally a Scottish race and a Welsh race, a mountain race plus at least 2 races further south. Haworth is likely to stay as few other races so early and it gets big numbers. Long Tour of Bradwell filled a gap in Aug when there are fewer events. Also not races that sell out fast and so do not really need us. Some may not work due to a clash of sponsors. We do value the opinion of members so please let us know about races you would like including. Chris D asked about the shorter average length this year- possibly true although 10 Peaks lakes is likely to be a tough medium. It would be good to find a race with 50 and 100 mile options and we might consider The Apocalypse in the future.

7. A.O.B.

- Fliers- KN requested that members help with publicity by taking fliers to races and their club plus putting up posters in Leisure Centres. They will be available on the web to download.
- Banner(s)- the plan is to buy and Si suggested we ask Karen McD to do the art work.
- Chris D felt that we need an extra or different flier to actually sell the series to those who do not know what it is. A separate flier for Haworth to hand out to runners/ cars with "you have done the 1st race in the RF series etc and explaining how to get involved in the rest of the series. Si also offered to let Karen do art work for postcards in his time and to finance their printing.
- Prizes for completing 4 races that year, as in the past, as we can afford this now. Suggestions of cap, buff, mug, beanie, towel and T shirt were voted on with T shirt being most popular, plus having the advantage of extra advertising as it is worn.
- Spot Prizes- hopefully more of these at races next year.
- 3rd party Liability insurance is being looked into.
- Ideas for next year's prize giving- what do members want? Many ideas considered- TdeH may be too close to Xmas and too long, sit down meal did not seem popular not did a short fell race. Most liked the idea of a longer race (2hours+) and we may look into Tour of Pendle.
- John Vernon said that WHW Challenge is now in May and needs no support crew and neither does the Devil of the Highland now.
- Si suggested we check the handover with Mark H soon- the plan was that if we had a successful year we would fully take over the Runfurther name etc.
- Some suggestion that we should use Twitter and Instagram- although few in the room knew how to go about this we will look into it.